

From: [Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC](#)  
To: [Lilley, Bliss](#);  
cc: [Collins, Carly](#);  
Subject: FW: Capx2020 Project concerns  
Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 8:31:34 AM

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From: Mrsprchal@aol.com [mailto:Mrsprchal@aol.com]  
Sent: Monday, June 29, 2009 10:49 AM  
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
Subject: Capx2020 Project concerns

Dear Stephanie Strength,  
Racetrack of powerlines coming our way?! There is much talk about energy alternatives, conservation and the need for more energy. What worries me is that just in the past months I have heard about solar power from Nevada to power the US, GreenPower Express which already has a map online of possible routes and Phase 2 of CapX 2020 and here we are battling over CapX2020 Phase 1. When asked about the GreenPowerExpress, CapX2020 did not seem to know anything about it! The state needs to stop the chaos, slow down and further study this before there are 175 foot poles with 8 foot diameter bases in our land that will be here FOREVER! How much studying was done to see if we can incorporate our own wind generation locally? Much of this project is driven to sell the power further down the line. There is also much debate about just how much wind power this is carrying, with the majority of it seemingly coming from coal burning operations. Even if something new or better comes along and these are obsolete, they are here to stay. The standard poles we are used to seeing are approximately 40 feet so you can imagine the enormity of this project.

Over 400 residents representing Le Sueur, Rice & Scott County met at New Prague High School in New Prague on April 7 to address their questions, concerns & comments to Scott Ek representing the PUC & Craig Poorker, project representative. The project being addressed is the 237 mile 345 kilovolt transmission line proposed to be installed by CapX 2020 with construction slated to begin in 2010. Scott County has been chosen as having the preferred route and Le Sueur and Rice County designated as the alternate route. These routes are just proposed and could and most likely will change, we were told. This should be a concern for all residents regardless of where you live as it will impact entire communities pitting neighbor against neighbor, driving down property values and creating an unneeded eyesore for our natural, rural and agricultural areas.

Many people in attendance, who would be impacted by these lines, posed questions and concerns about the health aspects, aesthetics, damage to fields and wildlife. Some questions were answered but far too many were left unanswered or were answered with "we don't know". We farm just south of New Prague in Lanesburgh Township and as century farm owners of a working farm we are highly concerned and have spent well over 150 hours writing letters, informing residents and doing our own grassroots campaign against this project. There is evidence that demand has dropped and there are other means of energy that have not been fully explored including nuclear and localized wind power instead of blighting the countryside with these monstrous lines. Submitted by owners of Czech Country Farms, Shirley Gassman, Brenda Fromm, Jodi Prchal and husbands and children. 30901 State Highway 13 New Prague, Mn 56071. 952-758-3781.

## **B-007-001**

This federal scoping process is specific to only the Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345-kV project. As such, we have forwarded your comments to the project team dealing with the project with which you have raised concerns.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

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